

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-09

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R 261435Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2929

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS CAIRO 3068

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SA

SUBJECT: PRESS REVIEW: DEATH OF KING FAISAL

1. ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL DOMINATES MARCH 26 REPORTING IN ALL THREE ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILIES. ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS EXTOLL HIS "COUNTLESS VIRTUES", HIS "WISE POLICIES" AND HIS "GENEROUS AND UNLIMITED SUPPORT OF THE ARAB CAUSE". ONLY SOUR NOTE IS IHSAN ABD AL-QADDUS' EDITORIAL IN AL-AHRAM WHICH, THROUGH QUOTATION OF ARAB PROVERB, RAISES SUSPICION THAT OTHERS ARE INVOLVED IN KING'S ASSASSINATION. (IN SUBSTANTIATION OF STATEMENTS THAT ASSASSIN WAS MENTALLY UNSOUND, AL-GUMHURIYYA REPORTS THAT, DURING FAISAL BIN MUS'D'S VISIT TO CAIRO, HE WAS FOUND STROLLING NAKED THROUGH LOBBY OF DOWNTOWN SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.)

2. ALL PAPERS REPORT THAT GOE IS SENDING VERY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO FAISAL'S FUNERAL. HEADED BY PRESIDENT SADAT, DELEGATION INCLUDES PRIMIN HEGAZY, FONMIN FAHMY, CHIEF OF STAFF MUHAMMAD ALY FAHMY, MININFO ABU AL-MAGI, PRESIDENT'S CHEF DE UNCLASSIFIED

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CABINET HASAN KAMEL, PRESIDENCY SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL CONTACT

ASRAF MARWAN, MINHOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION OSMAN AND AIR MARSHAL HUSNI MUBARAK. PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IS BEING LED BY PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYYID MAR'I. IN ORDER ATTEND FUNERAL, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS POSTPONED UNTIL SATURDAY MARCH 29 HIS "IMPORTANT SPEECH" TO THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WHICH AS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE MARCH 27. IN ADDITION, ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO ADJOURNED AT NEWS OF KING'S DEATH AND IS SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE SOMETIME AFTER FUNERAL.

3. GOE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT EGYPT WILL OBSERVE 14 DAY MOURNING PERIOD. PRESS NOTES THAT PDRY IS ONLY ARAB STATE THAT HAS NOT DECLARED PERIOD OF OFFICIAL MOURNING.
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